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1AP20 REG'D PGM PTO 09 MAR 2006

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 040894-7417

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | |
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| Toshio SHIMIZU, et al. |) | |
| |) | |
| Application No.: Unassigned |) | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| Filed: March 9, 2006 |) | Examiner: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| For: CUTTER UNIT OF STAPLER |) | |

Commissioner for Patents
MAIL STOP PCT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English:

a. JP B-02-021922: The relevance of this document can be understood from the English language abstract attached thereto, the discussion at page 2 of the present application, and the figures therein.

b. JP Y-03-025930: The relevance of this document can be understood from the discussion at page 3 of the present application and the figures therein.

c. JP Y-03-025931: The relevance of this document can be understood from the English language abstract attached thereto, the discussion at page 5 of the present application, and the figures therein.

d. JP A-10-128683: The relevance of this document can be understood from the International Search Report, the English language abstract attached thereto, and the figures therein.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP



Robert J. Goodell, Reg. No. 41,040

Date: March 9, 2006

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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) PTO Form 1449 | Attorney Docket No. 040894-7417 | Serial No. 104571249 Unassigned |
| | Applicants Toshio SHIMIZU, et al. | |
| | Filing Date March 9, 2006 | Group Unassigned |
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *Examiner Initial | Document Number | Date | Name | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|---------|-------|--------------|--------------------|----|
| | | Document Number | Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | <u>Translation</u> | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | | B-02-021922 | May 16, 1990 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | | Y-03-025930 | June 5, 1991 | Japan | | | | X |
| | | Y-03-025931 | June 5, 1991 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
| | | A-10-128683 | May 19, 1998 | Japan | | | Abstract | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
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| Examiner | Date Considered |
| Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |